

Remarks

The application now includes claims 7-18, 20-21, and 23-25.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, respectfully is requested. The objected to language concerning "electric arcs" has been removed from the claims. Accordingly this rejection should be withdrawn.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) respectfully is requested. Claim 7 is the sole independent claim. Claim 7 points out,

"a first spiral or helical electrically conductive electrode extending along axially along, within and spaced apart from the hollow interior of the dielectric tube and having a number of discharge sites at which electrons may accumulate to discharge ~~electrically as electric arcs~~ into the fluid in the hollow interior of the dielectric tube, wherein said first electrode is adapted to provide a current limiting effect during such discharge,"

Creighton U.S. Patent No. 5,766,447 does not disclose the above features. Specifically Creighton does not disclose a spiral or helical electrically conductive electrode that extends axially along, within and spaced apart from the hollow interior of the dielectric tube. The electrode 8 in Fig. of Creighton is a cylinder (column 5, line 42). The electrode 27 in Figs. 2a and 2b of Creighton is a stack of discs 32 with insulators therebetween.

The claims point out a spiral or helical electrode. It may be a self-supporting coiled wire, a screw with a thread, a non-conductive support with a wire wrapped

around it, etc., and the features of the invention of being able to provide discharge sites that would charge in a series electrical relation and would discharge in effect in an electrical parallel relationship as to provide a current limiting effect between respective discharge sites due to the shape of the spiral or helical electrode and the location of the electrode and coils, etc. thereof in the hollow tube are not disclosed or suggested by Creighton.

Accordingly, the claimed subject matter is not anticipated by or obvious in view of Creighton, and all claims in the application should be allowable over the reference.

Therefore, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and early notification thereof earnestly is solicited.

If a fee in addition to the enclosed 3 month extension fee and the RCE fee is needed, please charge the fee to account 18-0988.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that at telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, he is invited to phone applicant's attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Warren A. Sklar/

Warren A. Sklar

February 5, 2007

Date

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